Fall 2026
ENGL 2120.501
Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 on Zoom

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Syllabus

Welcome to English 2120: Intermediate Composition. This course builds upon and refines the writing skills acquired in previous writing courses. You will practice and develop your skills in research, composition, exposition, and presentation. Through analysis and revision, you will develop strategies to improve the versatility of your writing. Course topic emphasis varies by section. This course is themed on the idea of rejection and acceptance. You'll explore this concept through current events, commentary, and literature, and write about your own understanding of rejection and acceptance, as well as the way it is presented in our current day. For your final project, you'll curate and polish a body of writing that speaks to the question of rejection and acceptance today.

UNM Course Description

This course builds upon and refines the writing skills acquired in previous writing courses, with a focus on non-fiction prose. Research, composition, exposition, and presentation abilities will be practiced and developed. Through analysis and revision, students will develop strategies to improve the versatility and impact of their writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will use a variety of writing styles and sets of conventions to compose documents for academic, business, technical, scientific, popular publishing or professional settings.
2. Students will analyze the subjects, purposes, audiences, and constraints that influence and determine document creation.
3. Students will develop research strategies for writing and gathering information from primary and secondary sources.
4. Students will use appropriate documentation and document design in writing.
5. Students will describe and evaluate rhetorical choices.
6. Integrate information from sources to effectively support claims as well as other purposes (to provide background information, evidence/examples, illustrate an alternative view, etc.).
7. Use an appropriate voice (including syntax and word choice).

Required Texts:

There will be free digital versions of all required texts on Canvas.

- "The Birthmark" by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1843)
- "Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street" by Herman Melville (1853)
- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson (1948)
- "The River" by Victoriano Cárdenas (2022)

Library Information Literacy Outcomes

- Students will access Libros library database software and find a book relevant to the writing project.
- Students will learn how to skim the book and find quotations that are both relevant and appropriate for the paper.
- Students will be able to identify what type of database source they have found, e.g. magazine, journal, newspaper, website.
- Students will write a correctly formatted Works Cited page.

The assignment syllabus is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be announced.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Grading

3 Essays (100 points each)	300 pts.
3 Minor Assignments (50 points each)	150 pts.
In-Class Participation/Reading Responses	100 pts.
3 First Drafts (50 points each)	150 pts.
Portfolio	300 pts.
Total Points Possible	**1000 pts.**
Possible Extra Credit	50 pts

This is a three-credit-hour course delivered in an entirely asynchronous online modality over fifteen weeks during the Fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of nine hours of work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and discussion preparation) each week.

Extra Credit: Students may receive up to 25 points (5 points each session) for attending tutoring sessions. Students may receive up to 25 points for attending an approved English Department event and submitting a write-up.

Instructor Information: My office hours are Monday, 12:30-1:30pm on Zoom or by appointment. Email me anytime, but keep in mind that I am generally not online after 5:00 pm and before 9:00 am. Please give me 24 hours to respond, Monday through Friday. I will respond to weekend emails on Monday morning.

Tutoring: Free in-person and online tutoring is available through the Writing Center.

Attendance Policy and Overall Participation: It is your responsibility to keep up with reading and assignments, and/or to contact your instructor if you have questions about the material. The best thing you can do is stay in contact with your instructor. Participation is mandatory in this course. Participation means actively participating in your education; if you do not participate in class discussions, log-in to Canvas, and complete assignments on a regular basis you will, most likely, be dropped. If you have accessibility issues that prevent this, please reach out.

Required Work and Grading: All formal writing assignments must follow MLA format, be in Microsoft Word or PDF, and be double-spaced in a 12pt, Times New Roman font. Links will not be accepted. Alterations to this format can be discussed as they arise. Grades will be determined on a traditional percentage system, with the appropriate plus or minus sign: 100-90% = A (1000-900 points); 89-80% = B (899-800 points); 79-73%= C (799-700 points); 69-60% = D (699-600); and below = F. **You need a "C" (73% or 730 points)** to pass this course.

Essays: You are required to submit 3 formal 4-5 page essays (not including the Works Cited page), as well as a proposal or annotated bibliography before each essay. Each essay requires at least three credible sources to be incorporated in-text and on the

Works Cited page. I will provide instructions and rubrics for each assignment at the beginning of each new unit.

All final drafts must be typed and in MLA format.

Please Note: You need a "C," at least 73% to pass the course: A "C -" means that the student has failed the course and must retake the course.

Please:

- Be familiar with your syllabus. It is located on the Canvas home page for English 2120. Refer to the syllabus throughout the semester when you have questions. Feel free to stop by my office hours, as well, for personal attention regarding essay requirements or e-mail for an appointment if the hours do not fit into your schedule.
- Become familiar with Canvas software. Click on all the Course Tools to discover what is available to you in your online course. You may want to visit The Learning Center at UNM Valencia Campus if you need additional help learning how to navigate.
- Keep copies of all your work. Saving all writing is necessary. Learn how to save Word or PDF files to your desktop or a flash drive.

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means using language and/or ideas without acknowledging their source. Plagiarism includes such activities as copying another student's papers or ideas, downloading and turning in papers from the Internet, or copying passages from sources without proper documentation, or rephrasing an author's ideas and presenting them as the student's new, original thoughts. Plagiarism in this course may result in one or more of the following consequences: failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or disciplinary action by the University. To learn how to avoid plagiarism, students can speak to me, consult a tutor, or refer to http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/Links to an external site.

Academic Integrity: Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Here is the link to the **UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy:** https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html.

Generative AI Policy: This course is meant to help you develop and demonstrate key knowledge and skills without the support of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for submitted work. Using generative AI to complete submitted coursework in this course will interfere with the advantages in learning and understanding that this course offers you. You are expected to complete submitted work without any generative AI assistance. Prohibited generative AI use includes tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly's generative AI features, AI image generators, AI video or audio generators, AI code generators, AI paraphrasing tools, AI presentation generators, AI design tools, and similar technologies. The purpose of this course policy is educational, not punitive. The assignments in this course are aligned with specific learning processes and outcomes that support your future learning and expertise. Submitting AI-generated or AI-assisted in this course is inconsistent with course expectations and may violate UNM's academic integrity standards and Student Code of Conduct. If AI use is suspected, I will use submitted coursework, assignment directions, conversations with you about your work and process, and this syllabus to determine whether academic misconduct occurred. If you are unsure if a tool or use is allowed, please ask before submitting the assignment. I also hold myself to the same standards of authorship, critical judgement, quality, and integrity that I have outlined in this policy.

Equal Access: Student Services provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If students think they need alternative formats for completing coursework, they should contact this service right away to ensure their needs are met in a timely manner. Students are responsible for getting all documented forms to me as soon as possible. I cannot accommodate any special needs without the proper authorization from UNM Valencia Campus Accessibility Services. They are located at Advisement & Counseling Services, Student Services Building, 280 La Entrada Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031 Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), I accommodate documented special needs and encourage students to discuss their concerns with me.

COVID-19 Health and Awareness: UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class. If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me; I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. Let me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources. Please be aware that UNM will publish information on websites and email about any changes to our public health status and community response.

Support: PASOS Resource Center (505) 925-8546, pasos@unm.edu. The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a "one-stop" for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

Student Privacy: Student privacy is strongly protected by professors at UNM-VC. The federal FERPA strictly prohibits the instructor or administrators from talking to anyone but the student about his/her progress. If a student has questions about a grade on an assignment or about the final grade for the course, FERPA dictates that the student is the only one who may speak to the instructor regarding their grades. All other outside requests for information release must be sent to and approved by the UNMVC registrar: (505) 925-8580 http://www.unm.edu/~unmvc/Admissions/admiss.htm

UAP 2720 and 2740: Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the Arcoiris Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: http://undocumented.unm.edu/.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations or classroom community agreements. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. [Insert number] or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.